

mile to a large open field. An old fence ran between the creek and the first field, the water in some places extending through it and out into the open land. The road crosses this stream at right angles one hundred and fifty yards below. The fight in the afternoon across this stream was to be made by the First and Fifth Cavalry. The Fifth was to cross at the ford and the First at the point above described. When ordered to advance the First moved forward in an unbroken line across the creek and drove the enemy from our front. We were pursuing him rapidly up into the pines when I discovered bullets coming from our right and rear. I galloped to the right of my line and found the enemy moving up the creek and in our rear. The regiment was withdrawn as rapidly as possible, yet in good order, and reformed at its original line on the west side of the creek. Colonel McNeill had been repulsed at the ford and it was some of the enemy from this point that were moving up the creek to cut us off. It was almost a miracle that the regiment was saved from capture. We would certainly have been cut off had I not been on my horse, by which means I was enabled quickly to find out our danger and with equal promptness to provide against it.

In the afternoon the plan was for the Nineteenth (Second Cav.) Regiment, Colouel Gaines, supported by the Sixty-third (Fifth Cav.), to attack at the ford and for us to cross at the same place as in the morning. Upon reconnoitering my front, I found that the enemy had strengthened his position by throwing up rifle-pits in the edge of the pines. This was reported to Generals Barringer and W. H. F. Lee, and appreciating fully the magnitude and danger of the work assigned me, and also to provide against being caught in a trap as in the morning, I asked leave to halt the regiment at the fence on the opposite side and not to advance until I knew that other troops would advance in line with us.

For the second time and at the same place we formed line of battle, and from the experience of the morning every man knew the danger that lay ahead. Notwithstanding this, when ordered